



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 3, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: November 2, 2003
CWP WA-CW4403

Below Average Temperatures Bring Frost and Snow

Field Crops

Fieldwork was winding down with cover crops being seeded. Ag producers were busy wrapping pipes and winterizing farm equipment. There are more reports of crop and field damage from the prior week's flooding. In Thurston County, the snow provided incentive to the Christmas tree growers to get into the holiday spirit as they were preparing for this year's tree harvest, scheduled to begin next week.

Livestock

Called are on fall pastures and were being supplemented with feed, and many cattle producers continued to haul water to their livestock. Some Douglas County producers were taking advantage of CRP grazing provisions due to dry pasture and range conditions.

Fruits and Vegetables

Below average temperatures across the state brought frost, some snow over the weekend, and the first killing frost of the fall. There were some reports of damage to celery and unharvested apples due to the freezing temperatures.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.5
Last Week	5.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	16	42	40	2
Subsoil	14	39	47	0
Irrigation Water	6	5	89	0
Hay & Roughage	0	8	79	13

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	100	99	99	99
Winter Wheat Emerged	91	85	91	94
Potatoes Harvested	100	98	98	98
Corn Grain Harvested	50	40	41	45

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	7	60	30	0
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	13	87	0
Corn	0	1	7	92	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: November was ushered in under frigid conditions as temperatures dropped well below freezing. Some areas reported temperatures dropping below 20 degrees. Ag producers were busy wrapping pipes and winterizing farm equipment. Last weeks raging rivers quickly receded to normal stream flows as a result of the cold weather and dry conditions. The cool, brisk days and crystal blue skies have provided ideal conditions for big leaf maples to provide a final tribute to the year with their vibrant foliage resulting in a golden glow across the rural landscape. A very light sprinkling of snow over the weekend validated that winter has arrived.

Kitsap: Fieldwork was winding down with cover crops being seeded. Pastures were greening up from recent rains. Area Farmers Markets closed down until May 2004.

Pierce/King: The South Puget Sound area was hit by freezing temperatures on Thursday night October 30. The office had reports of crop damage to the celery crop and expects to hear about more crop damage in the upcoming weeks.

Skagit: The weather has been cold since Thursday October 29, with several nights of freezing temperatures. No crop losses were reported.

Snohomish/King: Heavy rains early in the week tapered off by Wednesday when the clear cold weather settled in. Pumpkin farms and corn mazes were busy with the usual

Halloween rush. Pasture growth was good, but has slowed down with the cooler temperatures.

Snohomish/King (2nd report): Winter-like conditions were experienced most of the week with below average temperatures, morning frost, and a little snow over the weekend. The daytime temperatures were chilly, but the sunny afternoons were great for the end of the pumpkin patch and corn maze seasons. The muddy brown water in the rivers turned to frigid green water. More reports of crop and field damage were received from the earlier flooding.

Thurston: A cold front that moved into the area mid-week resulted in frigid temperatures throughout the area. Many areas received their first killing frost of the fall with temperatures dropping to 16 degrees. The cool, brisk weather was ideal however for the final days of the U-Pick pumpkin harvest. The cool temperatures and lack of rain have also quickly reduced river levels from earlier flood conditions. The rural landscape was transformed into a "Winter Wonderland" as most areas received a surprise 2" snow accumulation on November 1. The snow provided the perfect incentive for Christmas tree growers to get into the holiday spirit as they continued to prepare for this year's tree harvest, which is scheduled to begin this week. Home gardeners continued raking leaves and mulching ornamental plants for protection against the unseasonably cold temperatures.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: The area received precipitation in the form of rain and snow in the higher elevations, and freezing temperatures were experienced. The predictions for freezing temperatures accelerated apple harvest for late varieties such as Fuji, Braeburn, and Pink Lady. Some producers may have lost fruit, however no reports were received. Apple harvest was completed. Some Douglas County producers were taking advantage of CRP grazing provisions due to dry pasture and range conditions. Many cattle producers continued to haul water to their livestock.

Franklin: The area received the first hard frost of the season. Sweet corn harvest was completed. Carrot and apple harvests continued.

Grant: Carrot harvest continued. The end of the fruit season neared as most fruit was harvested prior to cold temperatures settling in October 31.

Kittitas: Agricultural activities tapered off. Much needed precipitation was received in the form of snow and rain.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 16 degrees above normal to 16 degrees below normal, with 0.5" of precipitation. Some producers reported damage to unharvested apples due to freezing weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Weather ran the gamut from warm temperatures early in the week, to a skiff of snow and abnormal cold temperatures over the weekend. A mid-week major windstorm dusted up the area, blowing out some new wheat seedings on sandy soils and causing limb rub problems with apples remaining to be harvested.

Asotin/Garfield: The weather turned cold this past week. Winter wheat needed moisture and warmer temperatures for proper stand development. Pasture and rangeland would have also benefitted from warmer temperatures and rain. Producers may have to start feeding livestock early due to the drought and early cold temperatures.

Ferry/Okanogan: Alfalfa hay and apple harvests were completed. Cattle were on fall pastures or were being supplemented with feed. Emergency Conservation Practice was being requested in Okanogan County for livestock water hauling.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The area experienced a very cold week with snow on Sunday morning. Cold temperatures and no real moisture put a stop to the growth of the planted winter wheat, and also marked the start of the supplemental feeding for most livestock herds. Most of the fall fieldwork was completed with a few growers finishing up odds and ends in their fields.

Stevens: Early in the week, fierce wind brought cold air into the area and consequently temperatures dropped into the lower teens. A few snow flurries were received over the weekend with some accumulation of snow in the mountains.

Walla Walla: The area experienced a significant drop in temperature, with a Tuesday evening temperature of 14 degrees. Tuesday and Wednesday heavy winds blew dust and caused road closures. Temperatures were close to normal for this time of year at around 30-40 degrees.

Whitman: Mid-week rainfall brought needed moisture to most areas, but cold weather moved in later in the week and slowed the growth of winter wheat. Low temperatures dropped into the teens.

Whitman (2nd Report): Fall arrived in the Palouse. Very windy conditions prevailed throughout the week, along with rain showers. Temperatures turned bitterly cold later in the week. Some producers worked on fall fertilizing and finishing up fall tillage operations. **Asotin/Garfield:** Fall planting was nearly complete in all areas. Winter wheat was still struggling to emerge as the drought conditions continued in most areas. Pastures continued to deteriorate, as there has been little or no growth this fall.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

November 3, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	26	57	43	-5	5	-2	0	0	0.64	-0.35	2	8.83	3.19	157	23
Everett	31	59	45	-4	9	2	0	0	0.29	-0.62	3	5.17	-0.34	94	23
Hoquiam	27	60	45	-6	8	-8	0	0	0.64	-1.25	3	15.89	5.87	159	29
Kelso	23	70	46	-4	15	4	0	0	0.25	-0.93	2	5.51	-1.02	84	24
Olympia	23	67	45	-2	9	9	0	0	0.52	-0.91	3	12.41	5.40	177	29
Sea-Tac	30	60	45	-5	9	0	0	0	0.53	-0.51	2	9.48	4.05	175	24
Shelton	24	66	44	-5	8	1	0	0	0.71	-1.10	4	19.15	10.44	220	30
Tacoma	27	63	45	-4	10	3	0	0	0.43	-0.64	2	9.53	3.99	172	26
Vancouver	23	71	47	-2	21	14	4	4	0.25	-0.75	1	3.79	-1.69	69	20
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	15	66	40	-3	14	14	1	1	0.07	-0.12	2	0.35	-0.76	32	9
Omak	23	73	40	-2	7	7	0	0	0.07	-0.21	1	1.48	-0.29	84	9
Stampede Pass	19	51	32	-4	0	0	0	0	1.98	-0.14	4	14.91	4.34	141	27
Wenatchee	22	71	42	-4	18	17	2	2	0.06	-0.11	2	0.48	-0.43	53	9
Yakima AP	15	77	40	-5	12	11	0	0	0.05	-0.09	1	0.30	-0.61	33	7
NORTHEAST															
Colville	15	62	38	-3	1	1	0	0	0.00	-0.42	0	1.17	-1.34	47	8
Deer Park	12	64	34	-9	0	0	0	0	0.06	-0.33	2	2.54	0.44	121	14
Spokane AP	15	67	36	-6	7	7	0	0	0.08	-0.26	2	1.28	-0.54	70	12
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	16	75	42	-4	16	9	0	0	0.03	-0.11	2	0.45	-0.39	54	7
Moses Lake	14	72	41	-5	16	9	1	1	0.01	-0.13	1	0.33	-0.51	39	7
Quincy	18	73	42	-2	14	14	0	0	0.07	-0.11	1	0.32	-0.65	33	5
Ritzville	14	70	39	-4	5	5	0	0	0.00	-0.27	0	0.72	-0.72	50	6
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	15	74	42	-7	16	1	2	2	0.00	-0.14	0	0.34	-0.45	43	4
Pasco	13	79	43	-6	15	2	2	2	0.01	-0.18	1	0.49	-0.46	52	8
Pullman	10	66	36	-7	6	6	0	0	0.31	-0.15	3	1.78	-0.78	70	12
Whitman Miss.	13	77	42	-5	12	5	0	0	0.00	-0.32	0	1.60	-0.21	88	9
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	16	63	38	-8	1	1	0	0	0.22	-0.32	1	3.00	0.03	101	12
Lewiston ID	18	75	44	-4	18	11	0	0	0.02	-0.19	1	1.30	-0.44	75	9

Summary based on NWS data.
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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